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9D-HR-19690
PATENT

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 28, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments have been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 stand rejected. Claims 15-20 are allowed. Claims 3-6 and 9-14 are objected to.

The objection of Claim 7 due to an informality is respectfully traversed. Specifically, Applicant has amended Claim 7 as suggested by the Examiner to recite a "damper frame". As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claim 7 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Armstrong (U.S. Patent No. 3,799,187) is respectfully traversed.

Armstrong describes a valve (20) including a valve housing (22) and a pair of arcuate blades (23, 24). The valve controls the flow of dry particulate material through the apparatus. The blades move through an end wall (26). End seals (44) extend from the end wall to the blades for controlling the flow of the dry particulate material through the valve. Notably, the end seals are in direct contact with the blades, and in one embodiment, are hydraulically actuated to maintain a seal with the blade.

Claim 1 recites a motorized damper door assembly that includes "a damper frame...a damper door comprising a mounting portion rotatably mounted to said frame...a seal member comprising a substantially vertically extending moisture barrier defining a chamber between said mounting portion and said moisture barrier."

Armstrong does not describe or suggest a motorized damper door assembly as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Armstrong does not describe or suggest a seal member having a substantially vertically extending moisture barrier defining a chamber between a mounting portion of a damper door and the moisture barrier. Rather, Armstrong describes a valve

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including a pair of arcuate blades that move through an end wall of the valve, and a pair of seals extending from the end wall to the blades for controlling the flow of dry particulate material through the valve. Notably, the end seals are in direct contact with the blades, and as such, the end seals do not define a chamber between the blade and the end seal. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Armstrong.

Claims 2-7 depend from the independent claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-7 likewise are patentable over Armstrong.

Claim 8 recites a motorized damper door assembly including "a damper frame...a damper door comprising a mounting portion rotatably mounted to said frame...a seal member extending from said damper frame and forming a reservoir in said mounting portion."

Armstrong does not describe or suggest a motorized damper door assembly as recited in Claim 8. More specifically, Armstrong does not describe a seal member extending from a damper frame and forming a reservoir in a mounting portion of a damper door. Rather, Armstrong describes a valve including a pair of arcuate blades that move through an end wall of the valve, and a pair of seals extending from the end wall to the blades for controlling the flow of dry particulate material through the valve. Notably, the end seals are in direct contact with the blades, and as such, the end seals do not form a reservoir in a mounting portion of the blade. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that the mounting portion of the blades described in Armstrong, do not have a reservoir formed therein. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 8 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Armstrong.

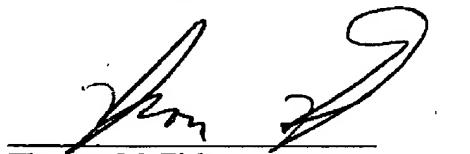
Claims 9-14 depend from the independent claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 9-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 9-14 likewise are patentable over Armstrong.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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